

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
MCALLEN DIVISION**

PATRICIA STEELE §
§
vs. § CIVIL ACTION NO. _____
§ (DIVERSITY)
WALMART, INC. DBA §
WAL-MART STORES TEXAS, LLC §

**NOTICE OF REMOVAL OF ACTION UNDER
28 U.S.C. § 1441(B) (DIVERSITY)**

TO THE CLERK OF THE ABOVE-ENTITLED COURT:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that Defendant, **WAL-MART STORES TEXAS, L.L.C.**, incorrectly named **Wal-Mart Inc.**, hereby removes to this Court the state court action described below.

1. On November 11, 2020, an action was commenced in the County Court at Law No. 8, Hidalgo County, Texas, entitled, Patricia Steele vs. Wal-Mart, Inc. dba Wal-Mart Stores Texas, LLC, in Cause Number CL-20-4164, *a copy is attached hereto as Exhibit A.*

2. The first date upon which Defendant, Wal-Mart Stores Texas, L.L.C., received a copy of the said complaint was November 25, 2020, when Defendant was served with a copy of the said complaint and a citation from the said State Court. A copy of the citation is *attached hereto as Exhibit B.* In accordance with Local Rule 81, the following constitutes all of the executed process, pleadings, and orders served upon Plaintiff and Defendant in this action:

- A) Plaintiff's Original Petition;
- B) Copy of Return Citation of Defendant;
- C) Docket Sheet;
- D) Defendant's Original Answer, Affirmative Defenses to Plaintiff's Original Petition and Requests for Disclosure;
- E) Order Setting Hearing on Defendant's Special Exceptions;

**F) Order Granting Defendant's Special Exceptions; and
G) Defendant's Request for Jury Trial**

In addition and in accordance with the Local Rule, Defendant includes a copy of the docket sheet of the state court matter *a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit C.*

3. This action is a civil action of which this Court has original jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. §1332, and is one which may be removed to this Court by Defendant pursuant to the provisions of 28 U.S.C. §1441(b) in that it is a civil action wherein the matter in controversy exceeds the sum of \$75,000.00, exclusive of interest and costs, and is between citizens of different states. On July 24, 2019, the Plaintiff served upon the Defendant, Plaintiff's Original Petition with Jury Demand, *a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit A.* In this Original Petition, Plaintiff plead that she is seeking monetary damages over \$1,000,000.00. As such, the amount in controversy is in excess of \$75,000.00, and removal is appropriate pursuant to 28. U.S. § 1441(b).

4. Defendant is informed and believes that Plaintiff was and still is a citizen of the State of Texas and resides in McAllen, Hidalgo County.

5. Defendant, Wal-Mart Stores Texas, L.L.C., was at the time of the filing of this action, and still is a corporation incorporated under the laws of the State of Delaware, having its principal place of business in the State of Arkansas, and has been served summons and complaint in this action.

6. Copies of all pleadings, process, orders and other filings in the state-court suit are attached to this notice as required by 28 U.S.C. §1446(a).

7. Venue is proper in this district under 28 U.S.C. §1441(a) because the state court where the suit has been pending is located in this district.

8. Defendant will promptly file a copy of this notice of removal with the clerk of the state court where the suit has been pending.

9. Plaintiff and Defendant demanded a jury in the state court suit.

10. For the foregoing reasons, Defendant asks the Court to remove the suit to The United States District Court, Southern District of Texas, McAllen Division.

DATED: December 22, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,

DAW & RAY, L.L.P.,

/s/ Jaime A. Drabek

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**ATTORNEYS FOR DEFENDANT,
WAL-MART STORES TEXAS, L.L.C.,
*incorrectly named Wal-Mart, Inc.***

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Jaime A. Drabek, hereby certify that on **December 22, 2020**, a true and correct copy of the foregoing instrument was sent to all counsel of record by electronic mail to wit:

Mr. Humberto Tijerina
Mr. Cesar Palma
TIJERINA LEGAL GROUP, P.C.
1200 S. 2nd St., Suite 4A
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Telephone: (956) 777-7000
Facsimile: (956) 972-0144
Email: TijerinaLit@gmail.com
Attorney for Plaintiff, Patricia Steele

/s/ Jaime A. Drabek

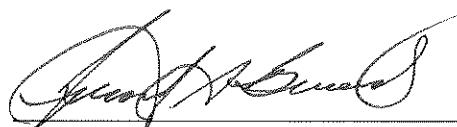
Jaime A. Drabek

THE STATE OF TEXAS §
§
COUNTY OF HIDALGO §

AFFIDAVIT

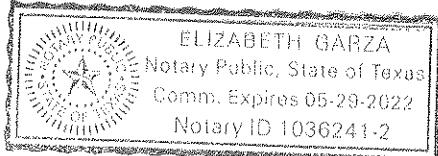
BEFORE ME, the undersigned authority, on this day personally appeared Ricardo G. Benavides of McAllen, Hidalgo County, Texas, who being by me duly sworn, deposes and says that he is an attorney for Defendant in the present cause filed by Patricia Steel; that he has been authorized to make this Affidavit; and that he has read the foregoing Notice of Removal and knows the contents thereof, and that the matters and facts therein contained are true and correct.

FURTHER AFFIANT SAYETH NOT.



Ricardo G. Benavides, AFFIANT

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED before me on this 22nd day of December,
2020.



Elizabeth Garza
NOTARY PUBLIC IN AND FOR
THE STATE OF TEXAS